

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An object model for capturing online meeting-related information, comprising:

5 a meeting plan interface for capturing administrative meeting information of a meeting in a meeting plan object; and a meeting discussion interface for capturing substantive information pertaining to the contents of discussion during said meeting in a meeting discussion object.

10 2. An object model in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

each of said meeting plan object and said meeting discussion object is stored in a tool-neutral persistent form.

15 3. An object model in accordance with claim 2, wherein:

each of said meeting plan object and said meeting discussion object is stored in a separate relational database, wherein associations between each of said meeting plan object and said meeting discussion object are captured using foreign keys.

20 4. An object model in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said meeting discussion interface captures product design related information in a product design related object.

25 5. An object model in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said meeting discussion interface captures decision related information in a decision object.

6. An object model in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

30 said meeting plan interface provides the ability to capture a meeting agenda in a meeting agenda object, a meeting in a meeting objective object, a meeting schedule in a meeting schedule object, wherein said meeting agenda object, said meeting objective object, and said meeting schedule object are stored separately in a tool neutral form.

7. An object model in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
said meeting plan interface has the ability to capture an action item in
an action item object and a commitment by a meeting participant to perform
said action item in a commitment object, wherein said commitment object
and said action item object are stored separately in a tool neutral form.

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8. A method for capturing online meeting-related information,
comprising:
capturing administrative meeting information of a meeting in a
10 meeting plan object; and
capturing substantive information pertaining to the contents of
discussion during said meeting in a meeting discussion object.

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9. A method in accordance with claim 8, comprising:
storing each of said meeting plan object and said meeting discussion
object in a tool-neutral persistent form.

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10. A method in accordance with claim 9, comprising:
storing each of said meeting plan object and said meeting discussion
object in a separate relational database, wherein associations between each
of said meeting plan object and said meeting discussion object are captured
using foreign keys.

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11. A method in accordance with claim 8, comprising:
capturing product design related information in a product design
related object.

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12. A method in accordance with claim 8, comprising:
capturing decision related information in a decision object.

13. A method in accordance with claim 8, comprising:
capturing a meeting agenda in a meeting agenda object, a meeting in
a meeting objective object, a meeting schedule in a meeting schedule
object; and

storing said meeting agenda object, said meeting objective object, and said meeting schedule object separately in a tool neutral form.

14. A method in accordance with claim 8, comprising:
5 capturing an action item in an action item object and a commitment by a meeting participant to perform said action item in a commitment object; and

10 storing said commitment object and said action item object separately in a tool neutral form.

15. A computer readable storage medium tangibly embodying program instructions implementing a method for capturing online meeting-related information, the method comprising the steps of:

15 capturing administrative meeting information of a meeting in a meeting plan object; and

18 capturing substantive information pertaining to the contents of discussion during said meeting in a meeting discussion object; and

20 storing each of said meeting plan object and said meeting discussion object in a tool-neutral persistent form.

25 16. The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, the method comprising:

25 storing each of said meeting plan object and said meeting discussion object in a separate relational database, wherein associations between each of said meeting plan object and said meeting discussion object are captured using foreign keys.

30 17. The computer readable storage medium of claim 16, the method comprising:

30 capturing product design related information in a product design related object.

18. The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, the method comprising:

capturing decision related information in a decision object.

19. The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, the method comprising:

5 capturing a meeting agenda in a meeting agenda object, a meeting in a meeting objective object, a meeting schedule in a meeting schedule object; and

storing said meeting agenda object, said meeting objective object, and said meeting schedule object separately in a tool neutral form.

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20. The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, the method comprising:

15 capturing an action item in an action item object and a commitment by a meeting participant to perform said action item in a commitment object;

and

storing said commitment object and said action item object separately in a tool neutral form.

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